Equalisation Account under Para 17 of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order. The final figure of the amount due is being worked out.

(d) to (f) Yes Sir. The process of determining the amount is a comprehensive one and requires detailed verification of record relating to purchases, prices of such purchases and utilisation etc. The process of recovery in on in accordance with due procedure of law. As the verification of records is a time consuming process, the recovery takes time. It is not possible to indicate the exact time limit by when recovery will be completed.

Review under DPCO

1467. SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the names of drug companies who applied for review under para 27 of Drugs Price Control Order 1979 against price fixation order since 1979;

(b) how many cases have been disposed of upto 31st January, 1987 and how many cases of review are still pending alongwith the details of each;

(c) by when the pending review petitions will be finalised;

(d) how many companies were not satisfied with the decision of review petitions and how many went to various courts alongwith name of each company, drug formulation and price fixed and being charged today;

(e) what is the date of filing of each petition in courts and how many are still pending alongwith the detailed position of each; and

(f) what steps Government have taken to expedite the decisions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH): (a) to (c) Government has fixed/revised prices of about 15,000 formulation since the commencement of Drugs Price Control Order, 1979 and many companies applied for review against these decisions. To the extent possible, review petitions have been disposed of and some are pending due to procedural hurdles like court judgements, long process involved in the scrutiny of the claims made by the companies and their insistence on personal hearing and reconsideration even after disposal. Efforts are being made to dispose of the petitions expeditiously.

(d) to(f) Information to the extent available will be collected and laid on the Table of the Rajya Sabha.

Incentives to Chemical Industry

1468. SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to give some incentives to chemical industry in the country to undertake modernisation programme; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH): (a) and (b) In order to promote technological upgradation and modernisation of industries including Chemical Industries, a Technical Development Fund already exists to provide foreign exchange assistance. No fresh proposal is under consideration.

Hike in drug prices

1469. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government announced a hike in the prices of essential drugs during December, 1986;

(b) whether Government also announced at that time that the price hike will not come into force with immediate effect and would be enforced only after the amendment of Drug Price Control Order;

(c) whether it has come to Government's notice that several drug manufacturers have increased the price without the DPCO; and

(d) if so, what action has been contemplated by Government against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. The existing Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1979 continues to operate till a new Drug (Prices Control) Order is issued incorporating the new measures announced by the Government.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Power Ministers' Conference

1470. SHRI SURAJ PRASAD: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a meeting of the State Power Ministers was held in New Delhi recently;

(b) if so, what were the subjects discussed therein and conclusions arrived at;

(c) whether a package of measures was announced by the Union Power Department for tackling the problems of State Electricity Boards; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The agenda items of the Conference included a review of the power programme (1986-87), rationalisation of power tariffs, conservation of energy and reduction in transmission and distribution losses. The main conclusions arrived at the Conference related to measures to improve power generation and plant load factor of thermal stations by expeditious implementation of the renovation and modernisation programme, reduction in transmission and distribution losses by adoption of technical as well as administrative measures, timely supply of equipments to power projects, improvement in the quality and quantity of coal supplied to thermal stations, and measures to strengthen the State Electricity Boards.

Sale of assets of Union Carbide

1471. SHRI SURAJ PRASAD: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Union Carbide Corporation has decided to sell its headquarters building at Danbury (New York) and the land attached to it when the litigation in the Bhopal gas case is pending against the Corporation; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH): (a) and (b) When, *inter alia*, the reported sale of its headquarters building at Danbury (New York) came to the notice of Government, an application was filed in the court of District Judge, Bhopal to restrain Union Carbide Corporation from disposing off its assets. The court directed Union Carbide Corporation (UCC) to maintain unencumbered assets of a fair market value of $ 3 billion to meet the decree, if any that may be passed by the court.